

“Today, the House Republicans are announcing their plan for Medicare prescription drug coverage. It’s not what the doctor ordered.

“Their bill is designed to solve their political dilemma of sounding like they care about senior citizens while simultaneously draining the Social Security and Medicare trust funds to pay for huge tax breaks that benefit their wealthy contributors.

“This bill fails the test of a real Medicare drug benefit. It doesn’t guarantee anyone a drug benefit. It doesn’t guarantee an affordable monthly premium. It leaves a \$3,600 gaping hole in coverage between the initial benefit limit and the kick-in of stop loss protection at \$4,500 in out-of-pocket spending. In addition, it starts down the Republican path of privatizing Medicare.

“We’ll be moving ahead in the Ways and Means Committee tomorrow. I urge America’s seniors to speak out for a real, meaningful and affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit. Don’t be fooled by Republican rhetoric.”